

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
LEASE OF 15.142 ACRES TO CONSTRUCT A NEW
MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ON FORT HOOD, TEXAS**

1.0 NAME OF THE ACTION

Proposed lease of 15.142 acres in order to construct a new Meadows Elementary School on Fort Hood, Texas

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Under the Proposed Action, KISD proposes to lease 15.142 acres, for a period of 25 years, from Fort Hood in order to construct a new Meadows Elementary School. The new school shall be sited just south of the current Meadows Elementary School, and will consist of 8.472 acres of the current lease footprint and 6.67 acres of newly leased Fort Hood property. After the completion of construction of the new Meadows Elementary School, Fort Hood would like to reclaim the old Meadows Elementary School building, building 422, for use by the Directorate of Information Management (DOIM). DOIM would like to use the space for both administrative space and as a communications center.

Under the No Action Alternative, KISD would continue to operate within their existing lease in the current Meadows Elementary School building. There would be no new lease and no construction of a new Meadows Elementary School. Students would suffer as a result of inadequate classroom size, and available student capacity would remain lower than what is needed.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT OF PROPOSED ACTION

Based on the EA prepared March 2005, which is hereby incorporated by reference, there would be no direct impacts on the environment associated with the lease of 15.142 acres; however, there will be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the new Meadows Elementary School. Approximately 5 acres of open space would be converted to urban use. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm water, waste water, and vegetation, are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, hazardous materials, and socioeconomics due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to environmental justice and protection of children are anticipated.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/REVIEW

The Draft EA and FNSI will be available for public review for a period of 30 days, beginning March 6, 2006 through April 7, 2006. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the Killeen Daily Herald. The purpose of this review is to ensure that significant issues are resolved. The documents can be viewed on the following website:

<http://www.dpw.hood.army.mil/HTML/PPD/Pnotice.htm>. Copies have also been provided to the Killeen Public Library at 205 East Church Avenue, Killeen, Texas, 76541. Comments on the EA and FNSI should be submitted no later than April 7, 2006 to: U.S. Army, HQ III Corps and Fort

Hood, Attn: IMSW-HOD-PWE, Building 4219, 77th Street and Warehouse Avenue, Fort Hood, TX 76544-5028, Attn: Amber Preston, (phone 254-288-5462).

5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, no significant impact on human health or the natural environment is anticipated from the Proposed Action. A FNSI is warranted and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.

Roderick A. Chisholm
Director of Public Works

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE LEASE OF 15.142 ACRES TO CONSTRUCT A NEW MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON FORT HOOD, TEXAS

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential for significant adverse or beneficial impacts of the proposed lease of approximately 15.142 acres and the construction of a new Meadows Elementary School. The EA describes the purpose and need of the proposed action, alternatives considered, existing conditions of the environment, and the anticipated impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

Killeen Independent School District (KISD), in cooperation with Fort Hood, proposes to construct a new Meadows Elementary School adjacent to the existing Meadows Elementary School on Fort Hood. The new facility will be approximately 114,000 square feet. Further, the new lease of 15.142 acres includes a portion of the original 18.31 acre lease as well as a part of Fort Hood's land directly south and west of the current Meadows Elementary School.

The need for a new elementary school has arisen due to both the age of the old school and the growing student population. A newer school would replace the current Meadows Elementary School, which is becoming obsolete due to the fact that classrooms do not meet the current size standard. Further, a new school of the planned scope would increase student capacity availability when new housing is added in the area.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Under the Proposed Action, KISD proposes to lease 15.142 acres, for a period of 25 years, from Fort Hood in order to construct a new Meadows Elementary School. The new school shall be sited just south of the current Meadows Elementary School, and will consist of 8.472 acres of the current lease footprint and 6.67 acres of newly leased Fort Hood property.

After the completion of construction of the new Meadows Elementary School, the old Meadows Elementary School, building 422, would revert back to Fort Hood for use by the Directorate of Information Management (DOIM). DOIM would like to use the space for both administrative space and as a communications center.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION:

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, KISD would continue to operate within their existing lease in the current Meadows Elementary School building. There would be no new lease and no construction of a new Meadows Elementary School. Students would suffer as a result of

inadequate classroom size, and available student capacity would remain lower than what is needed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:

Based on the EA prepared March 2005, which is hereby incorporated by reference, there would be no direct impacts on the environment associated with the lease of 15.142 acres; however, there will be insignificant adverse impacts associated with the construction of the new Meadows Elementary School. Approximately 5 acres of open space would be converted to urban use. Long-term, insignificant adverse impacts to land use, soils, storm water, waste water, and vegetation, are anticipated. Short-term, insignificant adverse impacts to air quality, noise, hazardous materials, and socioeconomics due to construction activities are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to environmental justice and protection of children are anticipated.

CONCLUSIONS:

Based upon the results of the EA, it has been concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.